Remarks

1. The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments above and comments below.

2. Added Fig. 8 is a pure transposition of the method, disclosed in the specification, from page 3:24 to page 4:2. Approval is requested, and this satisfies the objection in section 3 of the Office Action.

3. The Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 9, 12 and 15 on Lee et al. (US 2002/0000983).

The Office Action rejected the claims 1, 5, 9, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. Reconsideration is requested.

An amended claim 1 is set forth above. Claim 1 has been amended in the following way:
- on line 3, the words "and the location" have been added after "presence" (based e.g. on the description, page 9, lines 5 – 7 or page 16, lines 28-30),
- the words "on the basis of this information" have been inserted before "modulating the operation…" (based on page 17, lines 4-13 and 28-30)
- at the end of the claim, the words "of the displayed image" have been replaced by "of said image" (for clarification purposes and based e.g. on the description, page 17, lines 28-30).
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Claim 1 now describes a method for avoiding misinterpretation of an image, displayed on a matrix display due to defective pixels. The method comprises the following steps:
a. in relation with the display itself: obtaining information (presence, location) on the defective pixels of the matrix display;
b. when displaying an image on the display and on the basis of this information: modulating the operation of it;
c. or, in a copy of the displayed image and on the basis of this information: adapting the image content.

Lee et al. discloses an automated method for examining the good/fail quality of a flat panel display. The method includes i.a. the steps of inputting defect data for each process step and of automatically examining good/fail of the panel, depending on the input defect data [0020].

According to Lee et al., the step of inputting defect data includes [0021]:

1. Inputting position data of a defect
2. Inputting type data depending on the position data
3. Inputting cause process data depending on the type data of the defect
4. Inputting data on the degree of the defect
5. etc.

The meaning of "position data" is clarified in paragraph [0038] where is said that selecting the field position data: "enables to generate a defect for each process step". Position data are subdivided into detailed data such as bus, gate, active, source/drain, passivation, pixel, ...

From this, it becomes clear that by position is meant a position in the process and not the position or location on the screen of the display. It can thus be seen said that feature a of the new claim 1 is not disclosed in Lee et al.

Lee et al. does not disclose the feature of modulating the operation of the display when displaying an image (feature b of claim 1).

According to Lee et al., an operator inputs an index, corresponding to one of the position data into the system. In doing so, the operator is referring to a readable photograph [0040]. The readable photograph must thus give information about all kinds of defects, linked with the different process steps, such as bus, gate, active, source/drain, passivation, pixel, etc. Apparently, such a photograph contains also some information on defective pixels but it can never be a "copy" of an image in which the image content of defective pixels (or the ones in the neighborhood) has been adapted. In other words, the information, present on the photograph, is not used for adapting another image. Thus feature c of claim 1 is not disclosed either in Lee et al.

It is also possible to consider the novelty of claim 1 over Lee et al. in another way.

When an image is displayed on a display with a screen having defective pixels, the following method, described in claim 1, is applied:

- information (presence, location) relating to the defective pixels on the screen is taken from a database;

- this information is used to give a particular signal concerning this defective pixels on top of the image, displayed on the screen;

- or, the information is used to put a special indication relating to these defective pixels on a copy of this image on the screen.

Lee et al. discloses a method wherein a "readable photograph" is used. A priori, there are two possibilities to understand the reference: this photograph is considered to be a "database" storing information i.a. concerning the defective pixels on a display or the photograph is considered to be the "copy" of something.

In the former possibility, the information, present on the photograph is inputted by an operator in the system and this information is then used for examining the good/fail quality of the display and not for generating particular signals on the screen with image or on a copy of this screen. Important features of amended claim 1 are thus missing.

In relation with the latter possibility the Lee reference says "if the position of the defect appeared in the readable photograph is active..." [0040], which means that different kinds of "position of defect" (bus, gate, active, etc.) can appear in the photograph and that the photograph gives certain information on the possible defects and their origin. In the example given by Lee et al., the position of the defect is active and the operator selects the corresponding index 3. Lee does not disclose that the photograph is a copy of an image on a screen, in which certain pixels have been adapted. Taking into account that different origins of defects can be given on the photograph, it is even very unlikely if not impossible that the readable photograph is a copy of a screen with defective pixels.

In the corresponding drawings (Fig. 2A to 2G) a window screen is represented used by the operator. The window screen has on its left-hand side, two rectangular windows, each containing a certain number of symbols (points, crosses, small circles). Here again, it is not said that one of these rectangular windows is a "copy" of the screen under examination but it seems plausible that the windows give some information about possible defects of the screen

under examination. Here again, it is even very unlikely if not impossible that these windows are a copy of a defective screen. Further, there is no adapting of the content of defective pixels, because, in principle, these windows are of good quality and do not have defective pixels.

On top of that, there is no information on the location of the defective pixels in the photograph or in the window.

It can thus been concluded that the method of Lee et al. is completely different from the method described in amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is thus not anticipated by Lee et al.

Independent claims 9 and 15 have been amended in the same way as claim 1.
For the same reasons as the one given for claim 1, claims 9 and 15 are also not anticipated by Lee et al.

Claims 5 and 12 are depend on claim 1 and 9, respectively, and are thus also not anticipated.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 15 are also non-obvious over Lee et al. and also over Lee in view of Takanashi (US 6,806,870) for the reasons already given in the response filed August 29, 2006.

4. The rejection of claims 6-7 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al.

Claims 6-7 and 13-14 are claims dependent on claims which are novel and non-obvious, so they are also novel and non-obvious.
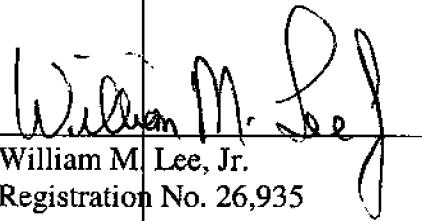
5. The rejection of claims 2-4, 8 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of Takanashi.

These claims are also novel and non-obvious because they are dependent on claims which are novel and non-obvious.

Given the above, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

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